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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-17 (including non-statutory amended of claims 1-10 and 12-17 and a cancellation of claim 11) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-17 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An alarm clock in communication with an external source of at least one audio data file, the alarm clock comprising:
 - a digital signal processor for receiving a first data signal from the external source and for decoding the received first data signal to obtain the audio data file;
 - a memory for storing the audio data file;
 - a programmable controller for coordinating the transfer of the audio data file from the digital signal processor to the memory, and for activating an alarm sound coded in the audio data file when in response to the programmable controller determines determining that the alarm sound is required to fulfill the one or more programming instructions of executed by the programmable controller; and
 - a speaker for playing the alarm sound.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display for displaying information received from the programmable controller regarding the one or more programming instructions.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one manual input control that is used to provide an input of information to the programmable controller to supplement the one or more programming instructions of the programmable controller.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein~~ an audio playback device ~~wherein the device can be accessed is accessible~~ by the programmable controller as an alternate source of ~~an~~ the audio data

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file for use in the programmable controller fulfilling the one or more programming instructions.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 4, wherein the audio playback device is at least one of a cassette tape player, a CD-ROM player, a radio, a computer disk drive, a video cassette player, ~~and~~ or a video digital drive.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a video display;

[a] wherein the memory ~~for storing~~ stores a video data file; and

[a] wherein the programmable controller ~~for displaying the encoded~~ displays a video image on the video display ~~when in response to the~~ programmable controller ~~determines~~ determining that the display of the video image is required to fulfill the one or more programming instructions.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

a means of connection to an external source of at least one video data file;

[a] wherein the digital signal processor ~~for receiving~~ receives a second data signal from the external source, and ~~for decoding~~ decodes the ~~received~~ second signal to obtain the video data file; and

[a] wherein the programmable controller ~~for coordinating~~ coordinates the transfer of the video data file from the digital signal processor to the memory.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory ~~can be used to store~~ stores at least two data files that are one of audio and video.

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9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alarm clock is connected to the external source of at least one audio data file by [a] the digital signal processor receiving signals from at least one of an internet connection, a local computer network connection, an independent data drive, an independent audio playback device, ~~and~~ or an independent computer.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory for storing the audio data file is located separate from the physical alarm clock unit and is accessed by the alarm clock by a data connection.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the data connection connects the alarm clock to at least one of an external computer, an external data storage device, an external computer drive unit, a computer server that is part of a local computer network, ~~and~~ or a computer server that is part of the world wide web internet.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speaker for playing the alarm sound is connected to the ~~alarm clock~~ programmable controller by one of a direct, wired connection to [a] the speaker, [a] the wireless radio connection to a speaker, [a] the wireless infrared connection to a speaker, ~~and~~ or a means of transmitting data to [a] the speaker that includes transmitting data in a wireless manner.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital signal processor decodes the ~~received~~ first signal to obtain a set of transmitted programming instructions that are used to supplement the one or more programming instructions of the programmable controller.

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15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 14, wherein the received first signal is received from one of an Internet connection, a local computer network connection, an independent data drive, an independent audio playback device, ~~and~~ or an independent computer.

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16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 14, wherein the programmable controller sends a data signal to the digital signal processor, and the digital signal processor transmits a signal to an external receiving device.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a first time and a first date on the alarm clock is synchronized with ~~the~~ a second time and a second date on the external data source.